

.....MINUTES.....

—OF THE—

Forty-first Annual Session

—OF THE—

Zion * Baptist * Association,

— HELD WITH —

Macedonia Church, Escambia Cou'ty,
Ala., Oct. 15, 16, 17 and 18, '97.

.....OFFICERS.....

J. T. WATSON	MODERATOR.
REV. W. P. HOWELL	CLERK.
J. W. CROSS	TREASURER.

The next Session will be held with Mt. Olive Church commencing on Wednesday before third Sunday in Oct., 1897.



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Will you please
of your presence in

W. H. ...
to ...

.....MINUTES.....

The Zion Baptist Association met in Forty-first Annual session with Macedonia church, Escambia county, Ala., on Friday, Oct. 15th, 1897, at 11 a. m. Introductory sermon preached by Eld. J. M. Robinson; prayer by Rev. J. W. Deer. After a short intermission for dinner messengers assembled in house at 1:30. Letters from churches called for and read—22 in number. When letter from Bethany church was read, brother J. W. Cross moved that said letter be held over for the present, and that a committee of five be appointed to investigate into condition of Bethany church, and to report as early as practicable during sitting of this body. Committee consisted of J. W. Cross, Richard Clary, L. A. Sims, Y. S. Cook, A. P. Wyrosdick. Body then went into permanent organization by election of brother J. T. Watson, moderator; W. P. Howell, clerk, and J. W. Cross, treasurer. Called for correspondence; Eld. J. E. Deer, responded from Conecuh Association. Called for petitionary letters. Received one from Pleasant Ridge church. On motion letter was received and messengers given seats in the body. Moderator appointed following committees:

On Education—E. A. Brantley.

Sunday Schools—H. H. Hollis.

Religious Exercises—Pastor Sweeney and messenger from Macedonia church.

Nominations—W. L. Morris, G. W. Hart, J. W. Sims.

On motion adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Body met at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Renewed call for correspondence. Elder Geo. M. Parker responded as representative of State Mission Board and Orphans' Home. Following committee appointed on finance: J. A. Hart, H. A. Hughes and S. S. Overstreet. The Moderator appointed following committees for Associational year: Temperance—E. A. Brantley. Missions—Rev. G. M. Parker. Education—E. Beasley. Orphanage—J. M. Sweeney. Ministerial Education—H. A. Mason. Sunday Schools—Rev. J. M. Robinson. Consistency—Y. S. Cook. Executive committee, G. E. Hicks, chairman; J. W. Cross, M. A. George, Sr., Revs. G. M. Parker, J. M. Robinson. The Moderator appointed the following committee on Orphans' Home: Sepulga church, Ida McIntire; Pleasant Grove, N. Brantley; Mt. Pleasant, M. E. Whaley; River Falls, M. A. Barrow; Searight, Cornelia Bagley; Magnolia, E. Coon; Macedonia, E. Elliott; New Providence, Amanda Clary; Shady Grove,

Julia Hughes; New Providence, Mollie Smith; Union, Ida Payne; Andalusia, Annie Riley; Fairmount, Katie Parker; Friendship, Emma Watson; Bethany, Eliza Gantt; Mt. Olive, Bettie Brazell-Harmony, Sarah King; Zion, Alice Ingram; Mobley Creek, Sarah Jones; Loango, Sarah Clark; Hopewell, M. Watson; Conecuh River, N. C. Cross; Salem, Susan Brown; Shiloh, Allie George; Long Branch, Katie Sanders; Bethel, M. J. Cook; Oak Grove, Ella Odom; Sardis, Ella Shell.

Called for report on Education, when E. A. Brantley presented the following: (See app. A.) Adopted. Renewed call for correspondence, when Eld. Holley, of Pensacola Bay Association and S. W. Parker and L. B. Parker, of Conecuh Association responded. Called for report of committee on condition of Bethany church, which was read and adopted. (See app. Z.) Report on ministerial education called for when J. M. Robinson, chairman, presented the following: (See app. B.) Spoken to by chairman and others. Adopted. On motion a collection was taken for ministerial education, amounting to \$2.00. On motion all vouchers were to be turned over to clerk, instead of finance committee as heretofore. On motion a committee on consistency was appointed as follows: Y. S. Cook, E. J. Beasley, N. R. Stewart. Report on religious literature made by Eld. H. A. Mason. (See app. C.) Report Spoken by chairman and others. Adopted. Motion to adjourn to 9 o'clock Sunday morning, which was amended by adding that no business be attended to except discussion of Sunday school report and the usual devotional exercises.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.

Reassembled in the house at 9 o'clock. The motion to defer transaction of regular business until Monday morning was received. Sunday school report made by Chairman H. H. Hollis, adopted. On motion the adoption of Sunday school report was reconsidered, and subject again opened for discussion, participated in by Bro Cross and others. Report adopted. (See app. D.) Adjourned for preaching. Eld. Geo. M. Parker occupying pulpit in the church and Eld. J. E. Deer at the arbor. Sunday collection amounting to \$7 98.

Body reassembled for business at 2 o'clock. Called for report on orphanage, Evergreen, made by Chairman Sweeney. Spoken to by chairman, Elder Geo. M. Parker and others. [See appendix E.] Report adopted. On motion the regular order of business was suspended, when brother Brantley introduced the following:

"Resolved, That this Association meet at its next annual session on Wednesday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1898, with Mt. Olive church, near Pontus, Butler county, Ala., at 10 o'clock a.m.

Report on Missions made by E. A. Brantley, (see appendix F.)

Pending discussion of report body adjourned to 9 o'clock Monday

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

Body met pursuant to adjournment. Discussion of report on Missions resumed, when Elder L. M. Thomasson's report of his evangelistic labors was read, and on motion, incorporated into the general missions report. Report spoken to Elders Parker and Sweeney and others. Adopted. On motion of Eld. Parker a collection was taken to remunerate Eld. Thomasson for said evangelistic work, amounting to \$8 50. Report on nominations read. [See app. G.] Adopted. Report on consistency read. (See app. H.) Adopted. Report of Finance committee made by chairman. (See app. J.) Adopted. On motion of Bro. Y. S. Cook, the clerk was instructed to have Articles of Faith printed in the minutes. On motion the treasurer was instructed to forward to the proper parties the funds raised for the various purposes now in his hands. On motion Elder Geo. M. Parker was elected delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention. On motion the clerk was instructed to have 400 minutes printed. On motion of Elder Geo. M. Parker, the Executive committee was instructed to raise, if possible, \$200 for evangelistic work in the bounds of Zion Association, and that in order to do this, they apportion their amount among the churches. On motion of Bro. E. A. Brantley the following was read and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the sincere and heartfelt thanks of this body are hereby extended to the brethren and friends of Macedonia church and surrounding country for their kind and lavish hospitality during our stay among them.

On motion body adjourned to meet with Mt. Olive church, on Wednesday before the third Sunday in October, 1898, at 10 o'clock a m.

J. T. WATSON, Moderator.
W. P. HOWELL, Clerk.

LIST OF MESSENGERS.

Pleasant Grove church—E. A. Brantley, Jno. Hutcheson, D. A. Hutcheson. River Falls—J. D. Barrow, J. A. McKenzie. Sapulga N. H. Hare, Thos. Hare, Jas. Turner, E. A. Bailor, Robt. Murphy. Sartis—Y. S. Cook, R. D. Shell, J. W. Pearce. Macedonia—J. H. L. Henley, W. L. Coxwell, S. S. Overstreet, Rev. J. M. Swinney, Robt. Elliott. Fairmount—E. J. Beasley, H. A. Mason, G. W. Williams, A. P. Wyrosdick, J. A. Pagett, W. E. Hilson, J. J. Williamson. Friendship—M. G. Duke, M. Lee, G. W. Hart, J. T. Watson. New Providence—R. N. Clary, D. W. Clary, R. I. Hart. Mobley Creek—J. I. Hassell, C. C. Morgan, J. S. Mason. Long Branch—L. A. Sims, J. P. Purnell, E. P. Mathews, G. W. Martin. Conecuh River

—W. S. and J. A. Hart, J. W. Cross, J. Hicks. Andalusia—Elds. J. M. Robinson, W. P. Howell Geo. M. Parker, M. V. Hare, A. Whaley, W. B. Bagley, H. A. Robinson. Harmony—M. D. Boyett, W. A. King. Florala—H. A. Hughes, N. R. Stewart, W. F. Holley. Shiloh—M. A. George, Geo. Loveless, W. A. Turner. Hopewell—H. A. Brooks, J. N. Smith, R. A. Knowles, Jno. Kirklin, J. H. Williams. Mt. Olive—J. A. Chambless L. A. Sims, J. W. Sims. Zion—H. H. Hollis, J. J. Moore, J. I. Smith, E. L. Fason. Bethel—W. L. Morris, R. A. Griffin, J. W. Manning. Pleasant Ridge—J. O. Blocker, John Clark.

[app. A]

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Education, beg leave to make the following report: The zeal for education seems to be on the upgrade. Parents seem to show a spirit of unrest along the line of education, seeking for better teachers and schools of longer duration. We would encourage parents to greater efforts in securing for their children a higher order of education, realizing that the rising generation must be what the present generation make them.

Education enables them to think right and reason from cause to effect, thereby avoiding many mistakes in life. The advancement in education among our people should make them more particular as to the character of matter that is put before them to read. In these times of political as well as religious discussions, we fear our time is too much given to reading secular newspapers. We do not condemn the reading of these, but we do desire to urge upon the brotherhood the great importance of reading something more elevating and wholesome. And as Baptists, we would recommend first of all, the reading of the Baptist book, the Bible. Second, we would also urge upon our people the importance of taking and reading the Alabama Baptist and other Baptist papers. For advanced classes we would recommend the Howard College and Judson Institute as being worthy of the patronage of the Baptists of Zion Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. A. Brantley, Ch'mn.

[app B]

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Ministerial education has grown to be a hackneyed term as well as a much abused one. Nevertheless it is a subject that will not down, because of its inherent merit and far-reaching importance. Ministers have in all ages of the Christian era been leaders of public sentiment on all moral lines, and indeed upon all other matters in which the best interests of mankind are involved. There was a time when the Bible, and the Bible only, was the best book with which it was necessary for the minister to be thoroughly familiar. Our people, however, have made such advances in literary culture

and general education has become so widely disseminated, that to be leaders now, as they have always been, and which is, by divine appointment, their true relation to mankind, the minister must be by education on many lines, furnished with the equipment necessary to this end. But while this is all true, we would emphasize the Bible as the chiefest and all-important book for them to be instructed in and familiar, so that they may be able to daub with no untempered mortar, but prove themselves worthy of God's approval.

Respecefully, J. M. Robinson, Ch'mn.

[app C] REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We, your committee beg leave to report as follows: Realizing that there are many books and papers that are dangerous to religious training, we would therefore urge our people to be careful in the selection of reading matter for their families. And we would recommend first the careful reading and continuous study of the Bible, which is Truth and Life and that the Alabama Baptist should be in every home. We urge the importance of using only Baptist literature in our Sunday Schools, as published by the American Baptist Publication Society. We further recommend that our pastors caution their people against poisonous and damnable literature that is being scattered over our country. Respectfully submitted,

H A Mason, Ch'mn.

[app D] REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report as follows: This branch of the church work is not in as flourishing condition as it should be. Our churches generally need to be aroused to the importance of this work. Youth is the time when the seeds of character are sown, how important then that we go to work with a zeal for God's glory and the promotion of His cause. We urge the brethren to bestir themselves in this work and endeavor to bring out the latent energies of the youth of our country.

Respectfully submitted, H. H. Hollis, Chm'n.

[app E] REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

Your committee respectfully submit the following: We find that only ten churches, so far as we have been able to ascertain, have contributed anything to this institution, as follows:

Vouchers in hand.....	\$ 8 25
Amount paid Geo. M. Parker	27 50
Cash in hands of finance comm ttee	22 75
Total	\$58 50

We recommend that last year's report be appended to this; also that the cash on hand be forwarded by treasurer to Rev. J. W. Stew-

art, Evergreen, Ala., and that the amounts collected during the year be forwarded by the respective agents collecting same, to Bro. Stewart and that the vouchers for same be brought up at next session of this body.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Sweeney, J. W. Cross, Com.

LAST YEAR'S REPORT—We recommend that a committee of one be appointed from each church composing this Association to present the claims of this institution to their respective churches, and that the pastors also instruct their churches in this subject at least quarterly. We also recommend that a public collection be taken this session for benefit of said institution.

[App. "F."]

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We, your committee on missions, offer the following as our report: The subject of missions is one of vast importance, and is as binding upon us today as it was upon the disciples when our blessed Savior gave the command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The subject of missions is one that should rest with weight on the heart of every Christian, believing, as we do, that only those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ can be saved. And that they cannot believe on him of whom they have not heard, and cannot hear without a preacher. Then is it not important that we make some effort and some sacrifice to send the gospel to perishing millions who sit in heathen darkness. When we think of such men as Carey, Judson and the host of others who left their homes and all that was dear to them in life, that they might preach the gospel to the heathen, we feel that we were trifling with missions. And, brethren, the spirit that prompted these noble men of God, should rest with weight on our hearts and our prayers should be, "Lord, what wilt thou have us to do?" We have missions to do in our own midst that we should not neglect. And while State Missions have not met with the success that we had hoped; yet brethren let us do all we can to carry on the grand work by continuing to cooperate with the State Mission Board.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. Brantley, Chm'n.

Report of Evangelistic work of Eld. L. M. Thomason—Miles traveled about 600; sermons preached 47; baptized 3; restored 6; received from Graves Association \$8 00; from Sardis \$ 50.

[app G.]

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your committee on nominations beg leave to submit the following: That Eld. W. P. Howell preach the introductory sermon—alternate Eld. H. A. Mason; Eld. Geo. M. Parker preach the Missionary sermon—alternate J. M. Robinson. We find that five churches—Sapulga, Sardis, Mt. Olive, Florida and Andalusia have invited the next session of our body to convene with them, and we recommend that our next session be held with Mt. Olive church

near Pontus in Bu'ler countv, ten miles south of Greenville, Ala.
 Respectfully submitted, W. L. Morris, Ch'mn.

[app H] REPORT ON CONSISTENCY.

We your committee beg leave to report that we believe that the inconsistent deportment of some of the membership of our churches does more to damage and retard the Redeemer's cause than all else together, and we recommend that this Association counsel our churches to rigidly enforce discipline and demand a higher Christian deportment among their members. Respectfully,
 Y. S. Cook, N. R. Stewart, Committee.

FINANCE REPORT.

Your committee respectfully submits the following:

Ministerial Educa ion	\$ 2 00
Minute Fund	17 50
Orphans' Home.....	23 36
State Missions.....	12 45
Home Missions.....	75
Howard College.....	1 00
Sabbath Collection.....	7 98

Total..... \$66 54

All of which has been turned over to the Treasurer and receipted for. Respectfully submitted, J. A. Hart, Cn'mh.

[app J] TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following is respectfully submitted:

For State Missions.....	\$12 45
For Ministerial Education	2 00
For Home Missions.....	75
For Orphans' Home	23 36
Howard College	1 00
Sabbath Collection	7 98
Minute Fund	17 50

Total..... \$66 54

J. W. Cross, Treasurer.

[app K.] REPORT ON TEMPERANCE,

In the absence of a report on temperance, I offer the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, We believe that Christians should array themselves on the side of all that is pure and good and calculated to bless humanity, honor Christ and glorify our Heavenly Father by opposing that which brings woe and misery to all mankind and leads to destruction. Therefore be it

Resolved, 1st, That we pledge ourselves first, last and all the time to do all that is in our power to remove the curse of the saloon,

the blind tiger and the illicit distilleries and their evil influences from our beloved state.

Resolved, 2d, That while every Christian should be temperate in all things, and to use their influence as such, it is moreover our duty as citizens to do all we can to forever stamp out the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits from within the bounds of the Zion Association. Respectfully submitted. E. A. Brantley, Ch'mn.

[app Z] REPORT ON ELIGIBILITY OF BETHANY CHURCH MESSENGERS TO SEATS IN THE ASSOCIATION.

Your committee beg leave to report that they find Bethany church in such disorderly condition, owing to the contending factions among them, that the harmony of the churches in their associated capacity is infracted, the cause of the Redeemer retarded in its growth and the fair name of our Zion blotched thereby. Therefore we deem it unwise for this association to recognize the messengers from Bethany church as members of this body and recommend that their names be not enrolled as such. Further, that we tenderly admonish Bethany church to settle upon gospel plans and by gospel methods the troubles which are at present rending her fellowship, destroying her usefulness and doing incalculable hurt to the cause of Christ throughout the scope of this Association's influence. And that when she shall have acted upon this suggestion this Association will be glad to recognize her among the sisterhood of churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J W Cross, R M Clary, L A Sims, Y S Cook, A P Wyrosdick,
Committee.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH, WITH PROOF TEXTS.

Article I We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 1 John 5:7.

Art. II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.

Art. III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.—Ephesians 1: 4, 5.

Art. IV. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Rom. 6: 23.

Art. V. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.—John 6: 44, 45; Romans 11: 6; Eph. 2: 1-9.

Art. VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—2 Cor. 5: 21; Eph. 1: 7; Col. 1: 13, 14.

Art. VII. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated

and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.—John 6:37; 2 Tim. 1:9.

Art. VIII. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.—John 10:28-30.

Art. IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects for these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism.—Colos. 2:12; Acts 8:38.

Art. X. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment.—Jobe 19:26, 27.

Art. XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.—Matthew 25:46.

Art. XII. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of the gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of hands of a presbytery.—1 Tim. 4:50; 5:22.



CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	PASTORS POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS.	CLERKS POSTOFFICE.	Baptised	Restored	Rec'd by Letter	Dis'm'd by Letter	Excluded	Dead	Pres't Mem'ship	Missions	Minutes	Orphans' Home
River Falls	Geo M Parker	Andalusia	J A McKenzie.	River Falls	15	20	75	50	2	50	75	50	2	50
Shiloh	A J Brooks	Andalusia	M A George, sr	Florida	36	3	75	3	50	72	115	0	1	50
Friendship	T T Dobbs	Andalusia	M Lee	Viken	5	9	2	2	2	56	1	0	1	00
Pleasant Grove	W P Howell	Andalusia	F E Chesser	Loango	6	4	4	4	4	162	115	0	1	50
Andalusia	Geo M Parker	Bradley	A Whaley	Andalusia	16	4	4	4	2	81	2	50	1	85
Macedonia	J M Swinney	Defuniak, Fla	S S Overstreet	Roberts	3	7	7	2	2	76	10	00	1	50
Florida	W F Martin	Brooklyn	N R Stewart	Florida	1	3	2	1	1	51	87	4	83	1
Long Branch	E C Clayton	Andalusia	J H Barrow	Cohasset	1	3	2	1	1	87	4	83	1	00
Concub River	Geo M Parker	"	J A Hart	Beda	1	3	2	1	1	15	15	50	50	00
Harmony	S W Raley	Brooklyn	M D Boyett	An alusia	1	2	2	1	1	56	56	35	35	00
Mobley Creek	J H Higdon	Bradley	A J Hassell	Fairfield	1	5	1	5	1	53	53	1	50	4
New Providence	J M Swinney	Pontus	B J Laundry	Beda	8	2	2	2	2	43	43	59	1	00
Mt. Olive	B Cooper	Andalusia	J W Sims	Pontus	2	2	2	2	2	23	23	59	1	00
Magnolia	J T Thomason	Evergreen	W H Cox	Simford	1	3	12	7	6	1	288	1	00	4
Fairmount	I Spence	Andalusia	I A Pagett	Red Level	25	4	3	12	7	2	75	1	00	4
Zion	S W Raley	Andalusia	E L Faison	Leon	1	7	3	7	3	118	75	1	00	3
Sardis	W C Avant	Rutledge	R D Shell	Pigeon Creek	1	1	7	2	2	64	2	20	1	00
Bethel	A T Sims	Georgiana	G A Riley	Shell	1	4	4	4	1	86	64	2	20	1
Hopewell	S W Raley	Andalusia	J H Williams	Fairfield	2	2	3	3	1	123	86	60	1	56
Spulgá.	E C Clayton	Brooklyn	J A Perdue	Mt. Union	16	3	4	2	2	10	10	60	1	56
Pleasant Ridge	P D Bulger	Liberty Hill	J H Foreman	Liberty Hill	2	2	2	2	1	12	10	50	50	00

Note—Andalusia church paid \$15 00 to Howard College and \$15 00 to Judson Institute. Harmony \$1 to H. College.

